
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 918

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS WHEN PRESCRIBING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires veterinarians to undertake certain review and counseling activities when dispensing medications.

The bill requires a veterinarian to review any drug he or she dispenses to an animal's owner before or when dispensing it. The review must include screening for:

1. potential drug therapy problems because of therapeutic duplication,
2. a contraindication between a drug and a disease,
3. the interaction of one drug with another,
4. incorrect drug dosage or duration of drug treatment,
5. the interaction of a drug and an allergy, and
6. any other significant clinical issues relating to the appropriate use of the drug.

The review must be based on current standards, but the bill does not specify those standards.

The bill also requires a veterinarian to discuss the drug with the animal's owner and counsel the owner on its use before or when dispensing it. The discussion and counseling must include information the veterinarian considers significant based on his or her professional judgment and the findings of the required drug review described above. Such information must include:

1. the drug's name and description;
2. dosage, dosage form, administration route, and duration of drug therapy;
3. special directions and precautions for preparing, administering, and using the drug;
4. common severe side or adverse effects or interactions and therapeutic contraindications or precautions the veterinarian considers relevant;
5. proper drug storage;
6. refill information; and
7. action to take in case of a missed dose or adverse reaction.

The bill specifies that a veterinarian is not required to provide counseling or information when an animal's owner refuses it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 3 (03/04/2013)